

Bering Sea Western Interior Resource Management Plan

Getting YOUR Voice Heard in the BSWI Land Use Planning Process

BLM



When a place you know and care about becomes part of a land use planning process, how can your ideas be heard? At the Bureau of Land Management, your input is vital to the process. We want to hear from YOU.

What is the Bering Sea-Western Interior Resource Management Plan?

The BLM is developing a new land use plan for an area in western Alaska that encompasses approximately 62 million acres of land, including 10.6 million acres managed by the BLM. The planning area includes all lands south of the Central Yukon watershed to the southern boundary of the Kuskokwim River watershed, and all lands west of Denali National Park and Preserve to the Bering Sea, including Saint Lawrence, Saint Matthew and Nunivak islands (see enclosed map).

The Bering Sea-Western Interior (BSWI) Resource Management Plan will provide a framework for managing and allocating uses of BLM public land and resources.

Why Does the BLM Plan?

To ensure the best balance of uses and resource protections for America's public lands, the BLM undertakes extensive land use planning through a collaborative approach with local, state and tribal governments, the public, and stakeholder groups.

The result is a set of land use plans—called Resource Management Plans (RMP)—that provide the framework to guide decisions for every action and approved use on the National System of Public Lands in accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act.

Decisions in the RMP establish goals and objectives for resource management, the measures needed to achieve these goals and objectives, and rules for using BLM-managed lands. They identify lands that are open or available for certain uses, including any applicable restrictions, and lands that are closed to certain uses. RMP decisions are made on a broad scale and guide subsequent site-specific day-to-day decisions.

Why is there a Need for the BSWI RMP?

The purpose of the BSWI RMP is to provide comprehensive, long-term direction for the 10.6 million acres of BLM-administered land in the planning area. The BSWI RMP will: (1) address any new issues that have developed since the existing Southwest Planning Area Management Framework Plan was

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approved in 1981; (2) address management issues not adequately addressed by the existing plan, and; (3) provide direction for site-specific activity planning in the future. Issues and management concerns the new RMP will address include, but are not limited to:

- Management of human uses and activities, such as recreation and mining;
- Protection of areas with critical or unique values, such as wild and scenic rivers; and
- Management of natural and cultural resources, such as wildlife, fish, cultural sites, and vegetation.

How You Can Participate in the BSWI Planning Process

Public involvement is an integral component of the BSWI planning process. Throughout this process, stakeholders and residents will have many opportunities to participate and share insights and comments, beginning with public scoping meetings in the fall of 2013.

The purpose of scoping is for the public to help us identify issues and concerns that should be considered in the RMP. Typically, the BLM holds scoping meetings in the area affected by the plan. BLM personnel are present at the meetings to explain the planning process and hear your concerns. You may also submit written scoping comments at the address below.

Many steps in the RMP process include specific opportunities for your involvement. However, the BLM welcomes your comments and suggestions at any time during the planning process.

How to Contact Us

If you'd like to be added to the BSWI mail list to receive future notifications and information, visit our website and use the **Contact Us** form, or send your contact info to **BSWI_RMP_Comment@blm.gov**. Please let us know the preferred way to reach you (regular mail or e-mail). You can also reach us by mail at BLM Anchorage Field Office, ATTN: BSWI RMP, 4700 BLM Road, Anchorage, AK 99507, or by phone at (907) 267-1246.

For more information about the BSWI RMP, please visit the project website at **www.blm.gov/ak/planning**.

**Your input will help inform management of these lands for the next 15-20 years.
We want to hear from YOU!**

